

German Territorial Army

—provides support to US forces in Europe

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The German Army forces are divided into two groups, the field Army, or NATO forces; and the German Territorial Army (GTA), or national (non-NATO) forces. One of the major tasks of the GTA is the support of both German and Allied armed forces to guarantee freedom of operations in the total theater, both the rear combat zone and the forward combat zone.

The field Army units are under the command and control of the three German Corps, and operate in the forward combat zone. A majority of the field Army units are on active duty. In the field Army NBC Defense Corps, there are 14 active NBC Defense companies, three active NBC defense battalion headquarters and service companies, and 10 NBC decontamination (equipment holding) companies which will be manned by reservists upon mobilization.

The GTA forces operate in the rear combat zone. A majority of its forces are in the reserves. Active duty personnel are assigned to GTA units as a cadre to maintain equipment, provide a training base, and allow rapid mobilization. In the GTA, two NBC defense battalions are partially active, and 12 NBC defense battalions are equipment holding units with a small active cadre.

The GTA is organized into three

Territorial Commands. The Territorial Command Schleswig-Holstein belongs to the AFNORTH area of NATO, while the Territorial Commands North and South are in the AFCENT area of NATO. The Territorial Commands are subdivided into Military District Commands (WBK or Wehrbereichskommando), each of which includes one or more Laender (states). For example, Military District Command VI (WBK VI) is the German state of Bavaria (see figure).

The Military District Commands contain 30 administrative districts called Military Region Commands (VBK or Verteidigungsbezirkskommando), which are further subdivided into 82 smaller Military Sub-region Commands VKK or Verteidigungskreiskommando). These correspond to the German counties. It is important to note that the peacetime administrative and governmental boundaries correspond to the GTA organizational and support boundaries to be found in the event of hostilities.

National defense tasks of the GTA include:

- Ensuring operational freedom, especially of NATO forces.
- Provide personnel and logistical support as well as medical services and support to the German armed forces.
- Perform special command, control, and support tasks.
- Carry out mediator functions between the military and civil sectors.

Maintaining operational freedom includes rear area protection, military movement control, movement over bodies of water, NBC defense, military damage control, and explosive ordnance disposal.

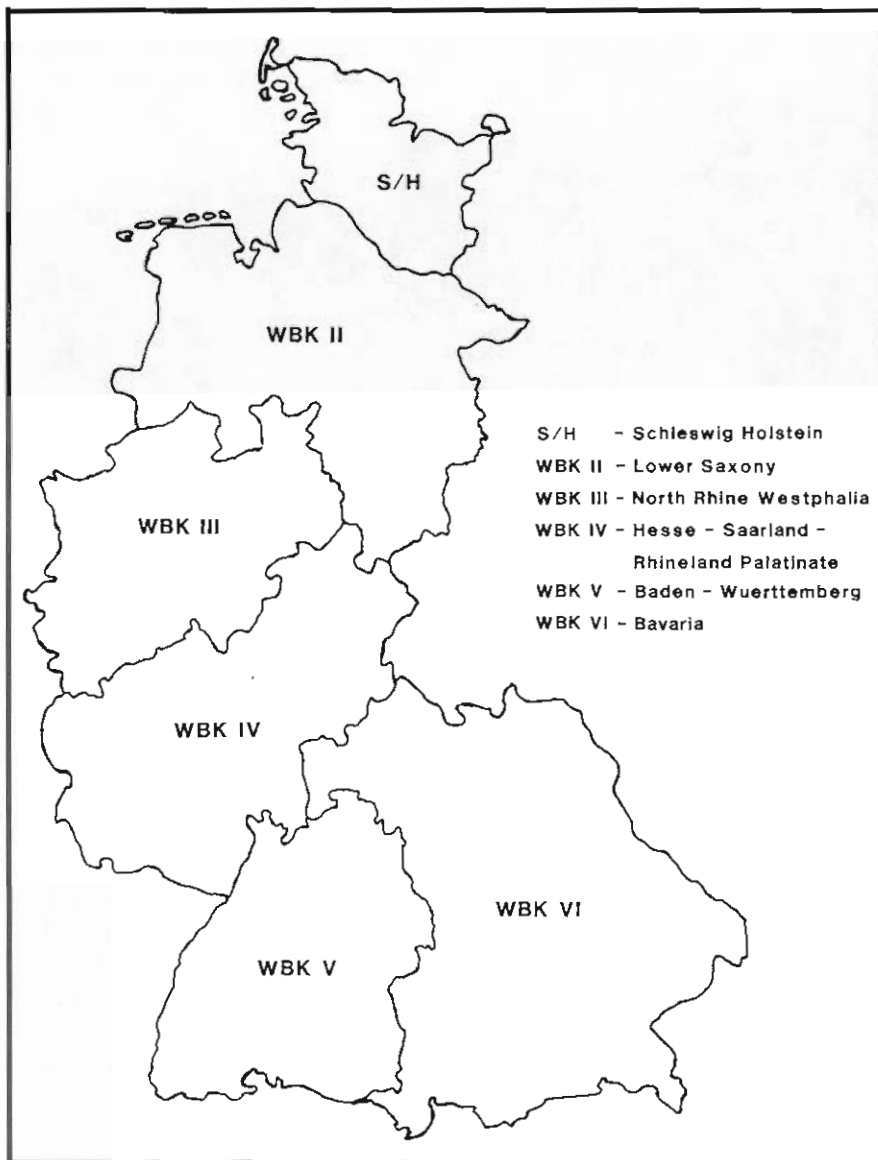
Operational readiness functions include personnel augmentation and replacement for the German Army, logistical support to the German armed forces and Allied armed forces, medical care and support for the German armed forces, medical assistance to allied forces, and performing services and works for German and Allied forces.

The special command, control, and support tasks reinforce operations of German and Allied forces, and include collection and exchange of information, press and public relations, area organization, preparation for barrier operations, military denial operations, prisoners-of-war-related activities, and military graves registration service.

The mediator function of the GTA is aimed at enabling the forces operating in an area and the Civil Defense organizations to carry out their tasks as smoothly as possible.

In the arena of NBC defense operations, the GTA is responsible for:

- The NBC warning and reporting service for the entire combat zone.
- Coordinating NBC recon and decon in areas the GTA is responsible for.



- Employing the NBC defense units of the GTA.
- Coordinating with Allied forces and Civil Defense authorities on matters of NBC defense and warning.

The GTA NBC warning and reporting service consists of three NBC control centers, one located at each territorial command; the NBC collection centers located at each District Command (WBK); the NBC sub-collection centers located at the Military Region Commands (VBR), Sub-Region Commands (VKK), Home Defense brigades, and territorial task

forces; and the NBC monitoring teams of the Military Sub-Region Commands, and NBC defense units.

The Military District Command provides general exchange of information with the NATO corps staff. It determines and estimates the NBC situation. It also warns subordinate headquarters of NBC hazards. The Military Region Command exchanges NBC information with division-level units.

The Military District Commands have already identified facilities which can be used as decontamination sites for NBC defense units

or units performing self-decontamination without the assistance of NBC decontamination troops.

The Military District Commands control units of different types and sizes, including one NBC defense battalion each. The NBC defense battalions participate in the territorial NBC warning and reporting service. They also support German and Allied armed forces as well as Civil Defense authorities by performing NBC reconnaissance, decontamination, and water treatment/purification tasks.

The nuclear-chemical laboratory of each military district command identifies and evaluates nuclear and chemical materiel and substances.

In 1986 the German government agreed to provide smoke and decontamination support to US units in wartime. In order to provide this support, five decon/recon battalions and two smoke generator battalions will be established by 1992. These units will belong to the GTA. Requests for use of the Wartime Host Nation Support NBC Defense units would be made through the WBK.

The German Territorial Army has made significant progress in providing NBC support for the rear combat zone. The German Ministry of Defense has strengthened the rear combat zone NBC organization as well as providing Wartime Host Nation NBC support. The continuing challenges found in the rear combat zone demand international cooperation and training, especially for NBC. ●●

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